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Post-Manifesto Polygamy

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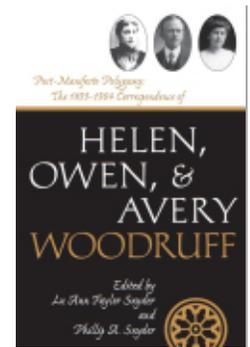
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1901

[Letter 18: Avery to Owen]

[*no letterhead, handwritten*]

Logan Utah
Jan. 12, 1901

Dear Clarence:

Have not heard from you since we got back and think perhaps you are waiting to hear whether I have arrived or not before writing. I thought of writing the evening we came and then came to the conclusion not to. We arrived on the 6, after having quite an unpleasant trip. It made us girls sick to ride in the sleigh through the mountains and took us some time to get over it.

We are staying home from school to-day not feeling able to go. Don't know whether it is just bad colds that we have or our vaccination taking its effect. Although our arms are not a bit sore yet, it has been over a week since we were vaccinated.

Few of the students have been vaccinated and they do not seem to enforce it.¹

The package came the morning we left, so I got to see the presents. I think they are beautiful.

Hoping you are all enjoying the blessings of health and strength I will close.

Yours as ever and with love
Maggie

[Letter 19: Avery to Owen]

[*no letterhead, handwritten*]

Logan Utah
Jan. 27, 1901.

Dearest Ivan [another code name for Owen] ÷

Although the hour is late I will attempt to answer your so much welcomed letter.

We went to Conference to-day and conjoint meeting to night. The meetings were good and I have come home happy as can be. Dearest, I looked for your blessed face to be among the preachers, yet hardly expected that you would come and think myself that it would have been difficult for us to have met without a little excitement and for that reason am consoled. I am so happy when I think of you and thankful for the grand privelage I have had of becoming what I am to-day and one of my greatest desires is to live worthy of your sweet companionship.

Examinations are near at hand. Am getting along as well as ever in school and enjoying perfect health.

I am glad to hear that you are all feeling as well as you are and hope that little baby² is better now.

I got along all right when I came back, as few questions were asked me and all stories connected very well. Was glad to hear of the succes that you had from dealing with those people.

Bro. C. [Matthias Cowley] was to Conference but of course I did not get to see him. Yes I could truthfully say that I didn't see the preformes.

Praying always for the help of the Lord I will try to be careful and patient. Then I feel sure that every thing will be all right.

With love to you all I am

Your own

Matilda [another code name for Avery]

(Over)

[*written on back:*]

Born in Farmington Davis Co.

Utah, Mar. 9, 1882.

Baptized in Auburn Uinta Co.

Wyoming Sept. 20, 1890 by

Barnard E. Parry. Confirmed

by Hyrum D. Clark.

[Letter 20: Avery to Owen and Helen]

[*no letterhead, handwritten*]

Logan Utah

Feb. 16, 1901.

Dear Ivan and Nellie:

Both of your letters did me an immense amount of good. I was so glad to hear how you all were.

After having my head inside my books half of the day, it gives me relief to talk to you for a short time. I am well and happy and having a glorious time in school. I can see reasons, Nellie, for your longing to be a school-girl again for indeed a school girl's life is and ought to be a happy one. Not meaning of course that married life has not its pleasures.

Yesterday, after our class work was over, instead of devoting the remainder of the day to studying our lessons for Monday we came home and washed and prepared some for Sunday. In the evening we studied a long Sunday School lesson; so that is the reason for my studying to-day.

We are advised to not study on Sunday and I think it is good advice but where girls are keeping "bachelor's hall" there is something more than studying to be done everyday. I am glad to say that our first term examinations are over and that we passed with pretty good marks. You know some of us students seem to think that our lives depend upon the kind of mark we get in final examinations.

I have just been studying History, Algebra, Grammar and Theology. The latter is a study I take great interest in also Art, and I guess you hope that I will take more interest and learn more about the study of Grammar in the future.

This is surely enough on the subject, school.

Ivan, I am sorry you have been hindered in your work by having a miserable sty, and know how to sympathize with you a little as I was bothered with two of them last year while at school.

I think you did not owe me an excuse for not writing but if you think so I will excuse you. I did not expect a letter much sooner than it came for such reasons as you mentioned.

Nellie I am glad to hear that you and babies are so well and that you are not so tied at home but that you can go out and enjoy yourself. I too hope that the opportunity of our associating together will be given us some time. Tonight I would like to call in and see you all and talk with you instead of writing.

It has been stormy nearly all day and hardly a stir has been made outside. This morning we were told about the sudden death of our beloved teacher brother Mazer.³ When he spoke to us in school not long since he told us of the few things he would have to accomplish before his work would be ended and I guess it was all done.

I received \$ all-right can get along with less next month.

If provisions are made for my coming down at any set time it will be agreeable with me and will not break into my school work enough to speak of.

Kiss the little tots for me. With love and prayer for you all,

I am as ever

Matilda.

[Letter 21: Avery to Owen]

[no letterhead, handwritten]

Logan Utah
Mar. 12, 1901.

Dear Ivan: —

I have just returned from school; got supper over with; placed my books back on the table ready for studying. Fearing that I would not get through with studying in time to write afterward, thought I would drop a few lines now. I was very glad to hear from you; little expected to be so thought of on my birthday and thank you ever so much for the remembrance you sent me for it is worth a thousand that could be bought with money.⁴

Yes, my birthday was a happy one I can not say that I ever had a happier one. Little I thought a year ago of being where I am today. I feel that the Lord has blessed me abundantly and with his help I will try to make the most of it. I think I can draw from your letter a good outline to follow; for my greatest desire is to accomplish those things which you mention that is to become an ideal wife and mother; to have the love and approval of God and that of my companion. To know that you have an interest in my welfare is enough to encourage me. You have done all I could ask and I know you are willing to do all that you know is for my best good.

Expect you are where you have to do a great amount of preaching; hope it wont be so hard on you as before.

School goes the same as ever. Today I have been painting on two of those oranges you gave me; they make quite an interesting study.

I never enjoyed a party better than I did the students reception Wednesday night.

Well I have some hard lessons to morrow. If my Algebra were prepared I would be glad.

This leaves me well but sister has a sore throat which I hope will soon be better. Hope that all will keep well at home while you are gone.

Praying for you (the dearest creature on the earth) always, I am yours lovingly

Matilda

[Letter 22: Helen to Owen]

[LDS Church letterhead, handwritten]

Mar 17, 1901.

Dearest Papa:

Your lovely letter did me so much good although it savored of the blues. I had a good cry and have felt better ever since.

Was sorry you could not spend those lonely hours you spent in Butte [Montana], with me, but must be satisfied with the thought that I occupied a little corner of your thoughts, for I would rather have a tiny corner in your noble, true, heart than to have the whole heart of any other man living, so there!

Clara [Beebe] entertained in honor of Genia and Mrs. Osgood Friday evening, we were all there of course, and had a lovely time. Every body wanted to know where you were and we all missed your smiling face very much.

On Saturday night I took, Clara, Mrs. Osgood and Nellie [Taylor] to see Macbeth and I have had the horrors every since. Talk about the "Hell broth of Macbeth's witches," I saw it all night and wished you were by me to comfort me.

Your Mother is going to have the Scholes girls down to-morrow night. Well, now about house cleaning. I was talking to your ma about carpets etc, and said I was going to make the old ones do but she said I was silly and told me to go and get a new one. She went with me and says she will stand part of the blame for going in debt. She says I ought to pattern after the Grants [Heber J. and Gusta] a little more and enjoy life. Sister Empey & I spent a hundred dollars on their dinning room the other day.

Our house would have looked very shabby all over, the bedroom carpet came all to pieces when Heber shook it, and by getting the one new carpet we can fix up quite scrumptously, and I am going to contrive to save on other things. ^Mrs^ Empey, your Ma and every one who is experienced says it would be folly for me to have my black dress made up now so I will make my other dresses do until fall, so we will say no more about it. I am more interested in house cleaning than any thing else just now. We have three carpets up, all the curtains down and I spent to-day Sunday in the kitchen, with the babies. We eat sit and sleep in the kitchen and you may be thankful you are away for a few days. We will try to be all slicked up when you get home.

It is very late. Will add a few words in the morning. Good night, dear, sweet dreams.

[Letter 23: Helen to Owen]

Owie's finger marks [*in top margin*]
 [*LDS Church letterhead, handwritten*]

Mar. 18, 1901.

Dear Owen: —

Will write a few words before the Postman gets here. Nellie is going to start home to-morrow. She talks about going all the time so your "Mar" thinks she may as well go now. Clara is down helping get dinner for your Ma's company to-day.

Prest. Cannon went to the Coast last week and the last report was that he was some better.⁵ Carol & Willard have a fine baby boy. Emily is going to marry Bro. Willey and they start to Washington soon where they will make their home for the present. He has been appointed to some office there.

Well I suppose you know the Gov.⁶ vetoed the Evan's Bill.⁷ It has made a great commotion. He said it was the hardest thing he ever had to decide upon. He declared he never told any one he would sign it. Prest. Snow & also Prest. Cannon had a piece in Saturday nights "news" stating that he had never promised them he would sign it. No doubt Mr. Owens⁸ will have a great deal of business on hand now.

The day after you left we had Y.L.M.I.A. Conference of Granite Stake in our Wd. House Bro. [Matthias] & Sister Cowley⁹ were there and came home with me to dinner between afternoon meeting and evening meeting. Was sorry you were not here to visit with them. Ethel¹⁰ & Hebe [Heber Bennion, Sr] were here also. I was busy getting dinner ready and left them to entertain them selves. Bro. C. filled his fountain pen and wrote letters to his heart's content.

Wrote to sister Sessions¹¹ a day or so ago. Give the folks my love. My darling boy, I love you with all my heart and pray constantly for your success in your labors and your happiness.

You must have had a good meeting Sunday for I prayed for you all day long. If I could just be as good, thoughtful, and kind to you, as you are to me, I would be satisfied with myself in that regard. Babies are real well, but Owie seems to be getting thin, doesn't eat like he used to. Write and tell me when to expect you as I am anxiously waiting your return.

With my heart's best love I am as ever

Your Affectionate and would be
 faithful Wife
 Helen Winters.

[Letter 24: Helen to Owen]

[LDS Church letterhead, handwritten]

Mar. 19, 1901

My Dear Owen: —

Your letter written from Big Horn arrived to-day, or I should say, your note, for that is what it was.

Will send this letter to Burlington [Wyoming] as it will reach there about Sunday. I am over at Mother Woodruff's to-night sleeping in the blue room up stairs, we are all torn up over home but expect to have our carpets all down to-morrow and O how glad I'll be, for we have lived in the kitchen for nearly a week.

The roads are dry now so I sent to the farm for "Topsy" for I need to go to town with the buggy. Sent Sioux to the pasture. Her leg was all swoolen up from standing in the barn so long.

Nellie went home to-day, she felt very badly on leaving this time. She wants us all to fast for her next fast-day and she is going to try and go to meeting in her ward and make things right as much as she can. Poor girl I feel so sorry for her.

Sister Frank Y. Taylor¹² is very low, the ward all fasted for her yesterday and to-day she was a little bit better.

Sister Doty called to-day, said she did not want to return to the B. H. this spring if she thought there would be any chance of getting half fare later in the summer. I told her I thought there would be some one going during the summer. She said Sister Kelsch's sister had received word from Chicago [code name for Byron, Wyoming] that Bro Kelsch was called to go to Japan with Bro Grant.¹³ Will take Sister K. [Kelsch] with him.¹⁴

The Salts from England are here tonight. They are right from Blanche and Joe you know. Have not met them yet. They are at Asahel's.

My dearest sweet heart, I appreciate you more every day and love you more than words can tell and if you were here this minute could demonstrate the fact in a manner you would not soon forget. Little Owen can climb up into chairs. He uncatches the screen door and runs away to Grandma's forty times aday. The babes are both real well as is every body else. With fondest love I am as ever

Your baby girl wifie,
Helen.

P.S. Give my love to Belle, David and all the folks at Burlington.

[Letter 25: Avery to Helen]

[no letterhead, handwritten]

Logan Utah
May 16, 1901.

Dear Sister Hettie.

Now have most of my lessons prepared for to-morrow and feel like talking to you a while. I often feel this way and hope that we shall sometime have the privelage of associating to-gether more and comforting each other. If it can always be called comforting what a grand thing it would be.

Our last visit I think was a joyous one; just what we needed. I am sure it greatly benefited me. I have been happier ever since.

The last visit had with Ivan was a pleasant one though quite short. Recd. a letter from him the other day but did not answer it for this reason. I did not know his whole address so thought it safer not to write. Tell him I am sorry and will write when I know he is home.

Grandpa did not write to me but Papa has been down and I got a letter from him stating that Grandpa was very ^low^ and in a pitiable condition. He told Papa to tell me to come down and take care of him.

Had Ivan been home Papa would have called on him.

Now I'll tell of the kind of times we are having at school. Last week the young ladies of the college petitioned for a holiday on which to remove all the dandelions from the college grounds. The boys also were to assist in improving the grounds by trimming the walks and leveling off the south hill. This kind of petition was of course granted and next morning all students as well as teachers came prepared to work. The girls with their sunbonnets and case knives got down on hands and knees and went at work in good earnest digging the things up. It was an all day's job but we had lots of fun out of it any way.

That night there was a dance at B.Y. but we were all too tired to go. Next morning we were all stiff as boards and disappointed to see the lawn almost as yellow as ever.

This coming Sat. classes 1903-4 are going up in the canyon for a trip and hope to have an enjoyable time.

I guess you say stop. I go at writing about as awkwardly as I do talking and have gotten into the habit of scribbling in taking down notes; so all to-gether makes it bad.

Well dear sister my heart is full of love for you. You have treated me so lovely I can never repay you. My prayer is that the Lord will bless us all in our earnest endeavors.

Love to All
Matilda.

[Letter 26: Avery to Owen and Helen]

[*no letterhead, handwritten*]

Logan Utah
May 30, 1901.

Dear Ivan and Hettie: —

Your dear letters were happily received, and to hear that you were all so well and happy and enjoying yourselves does me good. I am feeling fine.

This being a holiday we are enjoying a rest from our studies and doing a few miscellaneous jobs so as to be ready on the morrow to dive into our lessons in good earnest.

Its being so far to the cemetry we did not go, but went up town, had our “snap shots” and brought back some straw-berries.

The house is building and Mama not being able to do any work leaves much for sister — carpenters to cook for and soon hay men.

I think it is too late for to mention Big Horn to Papa he is pretty well settled and quite contented there. You do give that country a good name it sounds like a little paradise.

Both of you come up to Star Valley on a visit this summer. You would miss warm weather there and find it pleasant out home. I’m sorry a bit that Ivan made one visit there.

It sounds quite tempting Hettie when you mention go home and see the folks. Every letter makes me feel like flying there. Now I expect you laugh at me and say I’m a young thing and cannot leave my Mamy, but nine months is quite a long time to be away from home.

Did not receive a letter from Grandpa but Papa was down not long ago and he said that my cousin and Grandpa’s sister were there taking care of him and did not think they would need my help. But he told Papa to have me come. He would do that any way.

The folks at home are very busy now and expect a helper would be appreciated for our dinner. Wish you could have had some with us but us two girls sat here alone and ate them. We do hate to buy and cook things for just us two. But this wont last long. Our examinations come next week and commencement will be on 14th.

Think it will be fine if you can both come. We’ll expect you. I feel like saying I would be to the depot to meet you and would entertain you while here but suppose that is out of the question.

You ask what my program was for the summer. Well at the close of school I think I shall be contented to boat rides and drives. I’m sure I would enjoy them with you. Don’t miss the trip to Canada if you can help it. Would do you and babies so much good. Don’t speak about your non-sensical letter it was just the kind.

Hoping to hear from you or see you soon I remain yours lovingly,
Matilda

P.S. Papa and perhaps Mama will be down to Conference will give them your address.

[Letter 27: Avery to Owen and Helen]

[no letterhead, handwritten]

Logan Utah
June 14, 1901.

Dear Ivan and Nettie: —

You would laugh if you could see me, sitting here in an empty room alone; using the window for my stationary and my knee for a table.

I will leave for Farmington tomorrow on the 2 o'clock train. Have plenty to do before I go although I feel quite at rest since examinations.

Our exercises have been fine so far. In half hour I have to be to the College again so will have to cut this short and get ready.

Was glad to hear from you again and will be happy to see you.

Pardon me for not saying so before but I received the \$10.00 and the \$20.00 Thanks for them.

With Love to All
Matilda

[Letter 28: Owen to Avery]

[no letterhead, typed]

Oaxaca, Mex. [code name for Billings,
Montana]
Nov. 15th. 1901.

Dear Mattie:-

Think it would be best for you to come down. Will arrange place for you to stop. Write to me and say what night you will come down. Take the street car you usually do and get off on 11th. South Street. Go one block east and if we should miss you by any means, go into the home of Bro. Kelch, which is on the east side of the Street on the corner and just across the stree and a little south of where you stopped before. Your "friend" will meet you there or send his "friend to get you. Would it not be well to come one day after or before the students?

We are all well and hope all is right with you.
May God bless you.
With love and hoping to meet you within the next month,
Affectionately,
Ivan

[Letter 29: Helen to Avery]

[*company letterhead, handwritten*]

Office of Big Horn Basin Colonization Co.

ABRAHAM O. WOODRUFF, President.

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CHAS. A. WELCH, Secretary.

BRIGHAM L. TIPPETS, Treasurer.

Charles Kingston.

Jesse W. Crosby, Jr.

John Dickson.

William B. Graham.

Salt Lake City Nov. 24, 1901

My Dear Sister:

Your lovely letter came in due time, and I am ashamed that it has remained unanswered so long, but when I had the inclination opportunity was not afforded me and when there was time I lacked inclination.

My dear, I do not merit all the good things you say of me, if it were so, how truly thankful I would be. It makes me happy to know that you think those things of me, anyway, for I know you are sincere in what you say.

Suppose you are well posted on the happenings of the Journey in the south. I have had two lovely letters and mean creature that I am, have only written one, but I have been so greatly tried in my feelings lately. Will tell you all about it when I see you again. I want you to pray that he may be guided by the inspiration of the Lord in all thing pertaining to our family connections in future as he has been in the past. I have this faith, that our course in this life was mapped out for us before we were tabernacled in the flesh and if we are in the line of our duty, whatever comes to us is the right thing, although many things are hard for us to bear I believe that trials are blessings in disguise. And that some day we will thank God for our trials if we are only able to stand them and be faithful to the end. Now you will say I know, that I am preaching again but I want to say something to help ^you^ and these things when I think them over help me so I thought likely they might help you so you must forgive me if it sounds like preaching. No doubt you have heard of my condition at

present.¹⁵ At first I felt very badly, but am reconciled now, for I want to have all the children the Lord wants me to have, but it does seem so soon to go through the ordeal again. I thought it would be your turn this time instead of mine. Well I want us to pray for the Lord's will to be done in all things and that we may be prepared to accept whatever comes to us as our mission here. I am beginning to realize more fully every day the fact, that we are not living for this life but we are toiling & striving for grand & beautiful blessings in our Eternal home and if we would think more of this fact our burdens and sorrows here would be made lighter and our path way brighter in this life. When I forget this and my thots do not go beyond the pales of this life I am selfish indeed. But we have much to be thankful for. And I am not ungrateful, the Lords knows my heart, and I am truly glad that he does, for if he did not and were to judge me by my actions he would think me bad indeed.

We are all well, busy as can be preparing for Blanche & Joe who returns from England in about one week.¹⁶ I will have near neighbors then and will not be so lonely. Papa [Owen] has never been home to eat thanksgiving dinner with us once during our married life and it does seem hard.

The hour is late so will not write more. Am going to hear Miss Lulu Gates¹⁷ sing to morrow evening. She has been studying in jermamy for the past three years and makes her debut in the Tabernacle to-morrow eve. Wish you were her to go with me.

May the Lord bless you in your studies and grant you every richeous desire of your heart.

With love I am as ever
Your friend & Sister
Nell.

P.S. Dec. 8. 1901. You will see by the date of this letter it has been written a long time. Answer soon and I will not wait so long before answering. Got a beautiful letter to-day. If it were not for the lovely letters I get I could not stand to be left alone so much but I feast on them.